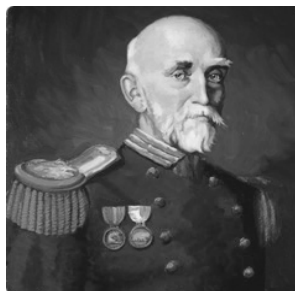




NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.

Ready Now!



Indeed, force is never more operative than when it is known to exist but is not brandished.

*Alfred Thayer Mahan
Naval Historian and Theorist*

Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2010

Shipmates,

This month, our communication priority is **strategic depth**, a concept so important that it is part of our Navy Reserve mission “to provide strategic depth and deliver operational capabilities to our Navy and Marine Corps team, and Joint forces, from peace to war.” But what is strategic depth and why is it important?

Strategic depth provides our Navy with the operational flexibility we need to respond to unforeseen or rapidly developing challenges. Strategic depth comes from trained and ready forces who are available when they are needed. With strategic depth, the Navy can execute the Maritime Strategy around the world, year after year, with confidence that while doing so, it also has the capability and capacity to handle emergent military or humanitarian crisis, or even global conflict.

Strategic depth is **not** a concept exclusive to the Reserve Component. A Navy that operates continuously and persistently has both strategic and operational elements in service at all times. By design, our Navy seeks to balance requirements for current operations with the right investment in strategic depth. Striking the right balance between strategic and operational capabilities in both the Active Component and our Reserve Component will allow us to create the most effective Navy Total Force.

On any given day about one-third of our Reserve Component is on duty, delivering operational support to the Navy and Marine Corps team, and Joint forces. Meanwhile, approximately two-thirds of Navy Reserve Sailors are providing strategic depth, most of whom are either in dwell or accession training. As Navy Reserve Sailors, we generally have the ability and flexibility to choose our level of participation based on our life’s circumstances - affiliating with operational elements when we are able to do so, and seeking a more strategic role when we are needed elsewhere. Both are important, and we value the service of all Sailors.

Strategic depth is a proud part of our heritage and a key part of our future. As World War II loomed on the horizon, 30,000 Navy Reservists were mobilized to active duty where they formed the core of the rapidly growing U.S. Navy. They fought at Pearl Harbor, Coral Sea and Midway. By the end of the war, 80 percent of the more than three million Sailors serving in the Navy were Navy Reservists. The Korean conflict mobilized more than 130,000 reservists, including World War II veterans who flew 75 percent of the Navy’s combat sorties. Navy Reserve forces – trained, available and ready – were also called to serve in combat in Vietnam, Desert Storm, Bosnia, and of course, we are serving today in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other places around the world. In fact, approximately 62,000 of the 90,000 Individual Augmentees serving in the CENTCOM AOR since 9/11 have been Reserve Sailors.

Even as we proudly volunteer to fill operational missions around the world, we are also providing strategic depth. The Navy Reserve’s force structure is largely based on scenarios and requirements established by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and driven by Operations Plans, or OPLANS, drafted by Combatant Commanders for the conduct of military operations in hostile environments. Navy Reserve Sailors are part of these plans. You provide the Navy with strategic depth by maintaining individual readiness, which drives unit and force readiness. When you are trained and ready to transition to operational roles as needed, you are providing strategic depth.

This is why we value the contributions of each and every reservist. We recognize service can and does vary from a few days per year to full-time service. All of us have a role to play, and being “Ready Now” doesn’t mean you are just waiting for a mission. Being ready is part of our mission! Thanks to you, we ARE ready now to surge forward – anytime, anywhere – from peace to war.

VADM Dirk Debbink
Chief of Navy Reserve

FORCM Ronney A. Wright
Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

